

## Health Science Cluster



Planning, managing and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services and biotechnology research and development.

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# Physical Therapist Assistants

If you're interested in physical therapy but aren't ready for grad school, a career as a physical therapist assistant may be just the ticket. As a physical therapist assistant, you'll work under the supervision of a physical therapist to help patients whose ability to move is impaired, from injured athletes to disabled children.

If you are interested in a career where you can change lives by helping people become more mobile and gain independence, a career as a **physical therapist assistant** may be for you.

**Physical therapist assistants work with physical therapists to help patients with exercises and other therapeutic treatments, such as bathing, applying hot and cold packs, and massaging.**

### Are You Ready To...?

- Take directions from physical therapists
- Help patients with exercises
- Provide massages, baths, and other treatments
- Apply hot and cold packs
- Record patient progress
- Report findings to physical therapists

### It Helps To Be...

Strong, patient, and a clear communicator. Work can be physically and emotionally demanding, and you'll often be required to give instructions to the patient.

### A Day In The Life...

- Instruct, motivate, safeguard, and assist patients as they practice exercises or functional activities.
- Observe patients during treatments to compile and evaluate data on their responses and progress and provide results to physical therapist in person or through progress notes.
- Secure patients into or onto therapy equipment.

### Salary and Opportunity in the Austin-area

**Median Hourly Wage: \$30.34**

*That comes out to more than  
\$63,109 a year.*

**In 2016, we had  
234 Physical Therapist  
Assistants.  
By 2026, we'll need 294.**

*Could you be one of the 60?*

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# Physical Therapist Assistants

## After High School...

In addition to a high school diploma, many employers look for physical therapists with an **associate's degree from an accredited program.**



## Top 5 Industries for Physical Therapist Assistants

1. Offices of Other Health Practitioners
2. General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
3. Home Health Care Services
4. Nursing Care Facilities (Skilled Nursing Facilities)
5. Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals

For more Career Profiles, visit our website:

[http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/  
CareerPlanning.aspx.](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/CareerPlanning.aspx)

## Related Majors

- Dental Assisting
- Medical Assisting
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Physical Therapy Assistance
- Occupational Therapy Assistance

## Related Industry Certifications

- Cardiopulmonary Certified Specialist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist
- Geriatric Certified Specialist
- Orthopedic Certified Specialist

## Related Careers

- Dental Hygienists
- Medical Assistants
- Occupational Therapist Assistants
- Pharmacy Technicians
- Physical Therapists
- Recreational Therapists

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